



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5554
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100
FAX (916) 341-5463 • Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>



Gray Davis
Governor

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.
For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) FOR LOW THREAT DISCHARGES TO LAND (GENERAL WDRs)

AND

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED GENERAL WDRs

Tuesday, April 1, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

State Water Resources Control Board
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive testimony on the proposed [General WDRs](#) and proposed [Negative Declaration](#) from dischargers who would be eligible for coverage under the General WDRs and from other interested parties. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will consider the adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration and proposed General WDRs at its April 30, 2003 Board Meeting.

The adoption of the proposed General WDRs would establish statewide WDRs for discharges to land that do not pose a significant threat to ground water quality. Many of these low threat discharges have been regulated by waivers issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards). Pursuant to the requirements of Water Code Section 13269, all Regional Board waivers expired January 1, 2003 unless they were readopted by the Regional Boards. Low threat discharges to land are defined, in general, as low volume discharges with pollutant concentrations that are less than the applicable Regional Board Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) ground water quality objectives. Each Regional Board will have authority to determine the eligibility of specific discharges in its region. These proposed General WDRs do not apply to any discharge that directly or indirectly enters surface waters.

The proposed General WDRs would provide the Regional Boards with a better option to regulate certain low threat discharges, in addition to the establishment of waivers or individual WDRs. Better options are needed because waivers may provide insufficient review of these discharges and adopting individual WDRs for each low threat discharge is staff intensive and inefficient.

The following discharges to land will be eligible for regulation under the General WDRs: well development discharge, monitoring well purge water discharge ¹, boring waste discharge, water main/storage tank/hydrant flushing, pipeline/tank hydrostatic testing discharge, commercial and public swimming pool discharge, small temporary dewatering projects, small inert solid waste disposal operations, and cooling discharges.

An [initial study](#) and [environmental checklists](#) have been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It has been determined from the initial study and environmental checklists that discharges covered by and complying with the proposed General WDRs would have a less than significant impact on the public and the environment. Therefore, a proposed Negative Declaration has been prepared. This notice serves as the CEQA required notification that the SWRCB intends to adopt a proposed Negative Declaration for the General WDRs.

Oral presentations at the hearing should summarize written comments. Time limitations on oral testimony may be imposed. Parties with similar views are encouraged to make joint presentations.

Submission of Comments, Receipt of Documents, and Other Information

The review period for the proposed Negative Declaration and General WDRs will begin March 3, 2003 and end on April 2, 2003. Submittal of comments or requests for copies of the proposed Negative Declaration, General WDRs, Initial Study, and Environmental Checklists should be addressed to Adam Laputz, Program Support Unit, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100. Comments or requests for copies of the General WDRs, Negative Declaration, Initial Study, and Environmental Checklists may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5463 or by e-mail at lapua@swrcb.ca.gov. Copies may also be requested by calling (916) 341-5554. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2003.

The [General WDRs](#), [Negative Declaration](#), [Initial Study](#), and [Environmental Checklists](#) are also available on the SWRCB's Internet web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/quality.html> (then click on "General WDRs for Low Threat Discharges to Land"). The documents may also be viewed during normal business hours at 1001 I Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento.

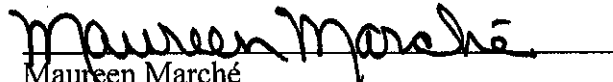
Parking and Accessibility

The [enclosed map](#) shows the location of the Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building. There is a parking garage across the street from the building with the entrances on 11th Street between "I" and "J" Streets, and there are limited metered parking spaces in the vicinity of the

¹ Monitoring well purge water discharges are not required to be in compliance with Basin Plan objectives as long as the purge water is discharged to land at the monitoring well facility. If monitoring well purge water is discharged to the source groundwater, the discharge will not degrade groundwater quality and therefore would be considered a 'low threat' discharge.

building. The building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez at (916) 341-5881 at least five working days prior to the public hearing date. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Questions regarding the public hearing, General WDRs, and proposed Negative Declaration should be directed to either Gordon Innes, Chief of the Program Support Unit, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5517 or Adam Laputz at (916) 341-5554.


Maureen Marché
Clerk to the Board

Date: February 27, 2003

[Enclosure](#)